

**MINUTES**  
**UNITED TENNESSEE VETERANS ASSOCIATION (UTVA)**

Legislative Plaza, Room 31

Nashville, Tennessee

**Tuesday, December 10, 2013**

Please view video stream

[http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=247&clip\\_id=8163](http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=247&clip_id=8163)

<b>Speakers</b>	
Juan Morales	Tennessee Valley Healthcare Systems, Director
Ed Harries	Tennessee State Veterans Homes, Executive Director
Janet Morris	Traumatic Brain Injury Program, Tennessee Rehabilitation Center Director

<b>UTVA Members Present</b>	
Fred M. Poe	Air Force Sergeants Association
(AFSA) Mary Lee Fielder	American Ex-Prisoners of War
(APOW) George Martin	AMVETS
Frank Forbes	Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Lawrence Morris	Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Ingrid Morris	Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Auxiliary
John Furgess	Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
Scott Duke	Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
George 'Mike' Scott	Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
Vicki Stinnett	WAVES National
Mary Ross	Women Veterans of America (WVA) Chapter 20
Kathy Bell	Women Veterans of America (WVA) Chapter 20

<b>TDVA Staff Present</b>	
Wendell Cheek	Deputy Commissioner
Colin Lewis	Legislative Liaison

**I. Call To Order**

At 1:00 p.m., Deputy Commissioner Wendell Cheek took roll call, and confirmed that a quorum is present. Deputy Commissioner Cheek called the meeting to order with a welcome to all attendees.

**II. Invocation**

Ms. Mary Ross gave the invocation.

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Fred Poe led the Pledge of Allegiance for the meeting.

#### **IV. Presentation of Agenda**

Deputy Commissioner Cheek reviewed the meeting agenda.

#### **V. Approval of Minutes: September 10, 2013**

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

#### **VI. Briefings:**

- a. Tennessee Valley Healthcare Systems, Director Juan Morales  
Director Morales introduced new Public Affairs Officer, Ms. Jessica Schiefer. Director Morales reviewed the hospital budget and obligations, and discussed cost efficiency opportunities. The staffing was reviewed and Director Morales advised where new key staff has been put in place. Director Morales presented his report to the Association.
- b. Tennessee State Veterans Homes, Executive Director Ed Harries  
Executive Director Ed Harries introduced his Executive Assistant, Leane Lewis. Mr. Harries reviewed the census at the three (3) state Veterans homes. Mr. Harries advised that the Humboldt facility now has a 4-star CMS rating, while Murfreesboro and Knoxville each have 5-star ratings. Mr. Harries reviewed nursing hours and regulatory oversight. Mr. Harries provided a construction update for the Clarksville home in which the concrete has been poured and an expected completion in early 2015. Mr. Harries discussed parking expansion projects in Murfreesboro and Knoxville.
- c. Tennessee Rehabilitation Center, Traumatic Brain Injury Director Janet Morris  
Ms. Morris stated her new title is Clinical Services Administrator at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center. Ms. Morris stated that The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) is primarily a facility designed to assist individuals to get back to work or to learn skills in order to be employed. Some people involved in TRC may never have worked before, or may need to learn new skills. The TRC is available to civilians and active duty military and veterans. The TRC is federally / state funded under the Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services. TRC is one of eight (8) comprehensive rehab centers in the country that are federally / state funded and the only one with a dedicated full time TBI program. Serve individuals 18 years old and above who acquire brain injury, as well as those with congenital cases.

#### **VII. TDVA Updates and Remarks**

- a. Wendell Cheek, Deputy Commissioner
  1. Governor's Council for Armed Forces, Veterans and Their Families  
Deputy Commissioner Cheek provided attendees with Governor Executive Order #15 to review the purpose of the Council, and reviewed topics from the last three (3) meetings. Deputy Cheek reported on attending the SAMSHA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration) training conference which had focus areas on PTSD, unemployment and suicide prevention. Deputy Cheek noted that the information from this

conference lead to the Council revising the strategic plan to include refocusing priorities, establishing new players, reviewing the old timeline and developing a survey which has been provided for all attendees on the needs of Veterans. Deputy Cheek welcomed anyone who would like to volunteer to be involved in the PTSD or unemployment working groups are welcome. Deputy Commissioner Cheek reviewed the existing members of the Council.

2. Legislative Session starts January 14<sup>th</sup> – Deputy Commissioner Cheek noted the start to legislative session.

#### **VIII. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

#### **IX. New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

#### **X. Future Meetings – Tuesday, March 4, 2014**

*\*post script note: after this meeting adjourned the date was changed to Monday, March 3, 2014 due to meeting room availability\**

#### **XI. Announcements**

Mr. George Martin announced that the AMVETs State Executive Council Meeting will be held in Paris, Tennessee on March 13 – 15, 2014, and emails will follow.

Mr. Frank Forbes provided a quarterly report from DAV to each attendee and noted it was available online. The DAV will hold their Mid-Winter Conference in Murfreesboro on January 10-11 2014 at the DoubleTree hotel.

Mr. Mike Scott announced the VFW Mid-Winter conference will be held February 7-8, 2014 at the Sheraton Music City in Nashville.

#### **XII. Adjournment**

Deputy Commissioner Cheek adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.



United Tennessee Veterans Association  
Sign-in Sheet

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
1) LAWRENCE MORRIS	DAV DEPT OF TN MIDDLE DIV CMDC	DAVEN@Yahoo.com	615-513-5123
2) FRANK FORBES	DAV DEPT OF TN UTVA REP.	5506051@bellsouth.net	615-834-1907
3) MARYLEE FISHER	AMERICAN EXPANS	marylee@bellsouth.net	615-889-5689
4) GEORGE MARTIN	AMVETS DEPT OF TN.	GEORGE.MARTINCEO@gmail.com	615-944-8380
5)			
6)			
7)			
8)			



# United Tennessee Veterans Association

Sign-in Sheet

Name	Organization	E-mail	Phone Number
1) Fred Poe	AFSA	—	615 331 5636
2) Mary Ross	WVA Chapter 20	MARY@DSO.NASHVILLE.TN	931-624-0772
3) Vicki Stinnett	Waves National Vintage Unit #94	VASTINNETT@AOL.COM	301/502-2639
4) Kathy Bell	WVA Chapter 20	KBELLS5262@AOL.COM	615-673-2639
5) George (Mike) Scott	VFW Dept Surgeon	geoscott@ncnc.com	615 666-4644
6) John Furgess	VFW Past C-1-C	N/A	615-812-1507
7) Scott Duke	VFW Post 2120	Scottduke62 @Yahoo.com	615 484-5444
8) Ingrid Morris	DAVA Unit 3	omma54@yahoo.com	615-513-5123